

RENAISSANCE FOUNTAIN, IN TOURS.



RENAISSANCE FOUNTAIN IN TOURS.

La Touraine is the part of France in which is found some of the most elegant specimens of the architecture of the *Renaissance*. Charles VII., Louis XI., Louis XII., and Francis I., made this province, which has been called the garden of France, their retreat, and possessed various edifices there. For example,—the Chateau of Blois, with its gallery of the time of Louis XII.; the staircase of Francis I.; and the old tower where Catherine de Medicis sought to read the stars.* On the other side of the Loire there is the Chateau of Chambord, distinguished by a forest of towers and turrets; also the Chateau of Amboise; and, further off, Chenonceaux, an elegant residence, to which Catherine added a long gallery.

At Tours there are several churches well worthy note, and many residences of the *Renaissance* periods, to which reference has already been made in our pages. Quite accidentally we stumbled on the fountain which is represented above. It is situated in the market-place, and is known as the fountain *de Beanne*, and while it is quaint and coquetish, displays a considerable amount of taste. The height of it is about 16 feet, and the diameter 12 feet.

KING EDMUND'S OAK.—The great oak in Horne Wood, at which King Edmund the Martyr, according to tradition, was shot with arrows, lately fell to the ground; and at the depth of a foot within the bark, Mr. Smythies, agent to Sir Edward Kerrison, the proprietor, is said to have found an iron point, having the appearance of an arrow-head.

* The restoration of this chateau was intrusted to M. Bullem, an able architect, and was nearly completed when the revolution occurred and caused the suspension of the works. A paper on this building, by Mr. Cruce, appeared some time since in our pages.

NOTES IN THE PROVINCES.

THE new buildings at Queen's College, Birmingham, are very near completion. They consist of a lecture theatre, chemical laboratory, anatomical room, large room for junior department, and additional apartments for students. In the chapel a gallery has been constructed for the use of the council, professors, &c., and a recess made for an organ. The buildings comprise two sides of the intended quadrangle, and are from the designs of Messrs. Drury and Bateman.—The contractors for the gaol at Birmingham have completed more than 90 per cent. of their contract, for the remainder of which an extension of time till 9th December has been given.—The Birmingham town council have formally consented to the erection of a set of public baths and washhouses in Kent-street. The plans, which have been prepared by Mr. D. R. Hill, and approved of, afford room for a large swimming bath, two plunging baths (one for males and one for females), fifty-one private baths (thirty-six for males and fifteen for females), with vapour and shower-baths. In the wash-houses there will be twenty-five stalls; and there are to be rooms for a centrifugal drying machine, drying closet, laundry with mangles, six private drying closets, residences for superintendent and matron, committee and waiting rooms. The boiler-house will be placed under the drying closet, and the shaft from the boiler flue will also serve as an extraction shaft to assist in ventilating the whole of the buildings, but will economise fuel. The arrangement of the plans is such as to admit of future extension, should it be required. The total expense, as appears from an estimate of the Council, will be about 10,000*l*. —The works of the new jail at Bedford are rapidly assuming the appearance of an extensive structure. The whole will be warmed and

ventilated upon the plan of the model prison at Pentonville. In the centre of the main building there is an octagonal hall, having on the top a dome, into which the foul air from all the flues will be received: from thence it will escape by a shaft through the roof. On the sides of this hall galleries will be affixed to each of the upper range of cells to afford a communication with other portions of the building. The chapel is on the first-floor of a portion of the old jail. The interior will be on the plan of the chapel in the Pentonville prison. The works are under the superintendence of Mr. Smith, the county surveyor. The contractor is Mr. Parker, and the clerk of the works, Mr. Hollingsworth. The whole may be covered in by end of present month. —Upwards of fifty plans for the new cemetery at Leicester have been lodged.—Street-sweeping machines have been disused at Manchester.—The national schools and master's house at Farnley, and the parsonage house, according to the *Leeds Intelligencer*, have been opened. The schools are in the Elizabethan style, from a design by Messrs. Perkin and Backhouse.—The Whittle Dean Water Company, says the *Gateshead Observer*, now supply their customers from their new reservoirs. The quality of the water is excellent, and the flow constant. There are five reservoirs—four for collection. The fifth and largest is 16 acres in extent, 40 feet deep; contents, 14,175,875,065 cubic inches, or 173,741,047 gallons. This supply will give about 500,000 gallons a-day throughout the year, and meet a consumption of 4½ gallons per head per day.

THAMES TUNNEL.—The number of passengers who passed through the Tunnel in the week ending October 7, was 15,947; amount of money, 66*l*. 8*s*. 11*d*.